

ARGONNE TO REQUIRE VACCINATIONS OR EMPLOYER EXEMPTIONS FOR CNM USER SITE ACCESS EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 22, 2021

Argonne National Laboratory is committed to helping protect the health and safety of those who visit our site. Argonne and the Center for Nanoscale Materials (CNM) remain in a limited state of operations. However, starting November 22, 2021, Argonne will change its requirements for site access and all CNM users will only be able to enter the laboratory site if they:

- Provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination; or
- Provide proof that they have received an exemption from their employer or home institution, allowing them to remain unvaccinated. In this case, users will need to provide proof that they are enrolled in a COVID-19 screening program through their employer that tests at least weekly, or provide a negative result from a COVID-19 test conducted within the last 72 hours.

This change means that unvaccinated users will no longer be able to access the Argonne campus or the CNM facility with only a negative COVID-19 test result.

Users who have been **vaccinated against COVID-19** may provide proof in two ways:

1. At least two business days in advance of arrival at Argonne, upload proof of vaccination to [this folder in Box Plus](#), Argonne's secure storage system. Argonne will review the proof and authorize site access if the documents are valid. User badge will be used for access to the site.
2. Upon arrival at Argonne, show proof of vaccination at the Argonne Information Center. Proof may only be shown at the AIC during regular business hours (6:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday). A gate pass will be issued for the day while our systems are updated; starting the following day, the user will use their badge for site access.

Users who are **unvaccinated, but hold proof of employer or home institution exemption that states that they are enrolled in a COVID-19 screening program through their employer that tests at least weekly**, may provide proof in two ways:

1. At least two business days in advance of arrival at Argonne, upload proof of employer or home institution exemption and enrollment in a COVID-19 screening program that tests at least weekly to [this folder in Box Plus](#), Argonne's secure storage system. Argonne will review the proof and authorize site access if the documents are valid. User badge will be used for site access. The user's badge expiration date may be modified based on exemption expiration date.
2. Upon arrival at Argonne, show proof of employer exemption and enrollment in a COVID-19 screening program that tests at least weekly at the Argonne Information Center. Proof may only be shown at the AIC during regular business hours (6:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday). A gate pass will be issued for the day while our systems are updated; starting the following day, the user will use their badge for site access. The user's badge expiration date may be modified based on exemption expiration date.

Users who are **unvaccinated and hold proof of employer or home institution exemption, but whose exemption document does not state that they are in a COVID-19 screening program that tests at least weekly**, have only one method to provide proof:

1. Provide proof of employer or home institution exemption at the Argonne Information Center upon arrival at Argonne during regular business hours (6:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday). These users must also show proof of a negative result from a COVID-19 test conducted within the last 72 hours. AIC staff will review the documents, and if valid they will issue the user a gate pass for up to three days, depending on the date of the negative test result. Documents will be returned to the individual after review; Argonne will not keep them on file. If the user needs to access the site for longer than the duration of their gate pass, a more recent negative COVID-19 test result must be provided at the AIC to renew their pass.

Proof of vaccination is defined as a physical vaccination card, photocopy of a vaccination card, or digital image. The time at which the proof is provided must be at least 14 days after the date of the final vaccination shot. Argonne will accept vaccines approved by the World Health Organization: Astra Zeneca, Covaxin (Bharat Biotech), Covishield (Oxford/AstraZeneca), Johnson & Johnson (Janssen), Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, Sinopharm BBIBP, and Sinovac.

Proof of exemption consists of a letter on employer or home institution letterhead addressed to the individual by name that indicates there is an approved exemption for them and whether they are enrolled through their employer in a COVID-19 screening program that tests at least weekly.

Argonne will accept printed COVID-19 test results from either a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test or a rapid antigen test performed by a healthcare provider no more than 72 hours prior to site entry. Results from at-home testing kits will not be accepted.

Argonne does not require booster shots for any COVID-19 vaccines at this time.

As noted, Argonne and the CNM remain in a state of limited operations. Mail-in/remote experiments continue, and on-site experimenter presence is permitted only for experiments that have gone through a pre-approval process based on need for access. The number of users allowed on site also remains capped on a per-experiment basis.

The only users allowed onsite at the CNM are those identified as onsite users on approved user work approvals (UWAs).

While onsite, all are required to wear masks at all times, regardless of vaccination status, and maintain six-foot social distancing.

The laboratory will continue to update its site access policies based on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please make sure to verify the [latest processes](#) for site access before making plans to travel to Argonne. If you have additional questions or require an exception because you are unable to meet the requirements above, please contact the CNM User Office at cnm_useroffice@anl.gov.